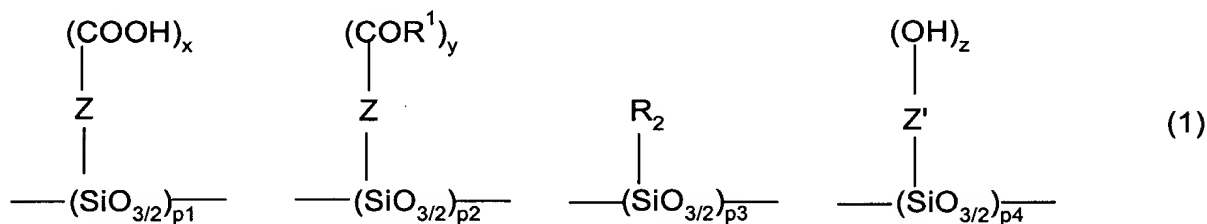


The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously cancelled)

Claim 2 (previously amended): A high molecular weight silicone compound
comprising recurring units represented by formula (1), said silicone compound having a
weight average molecular weight of 1, 000 to 50,000,

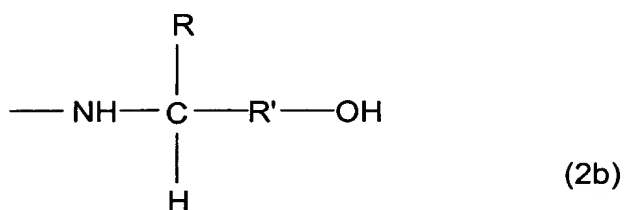
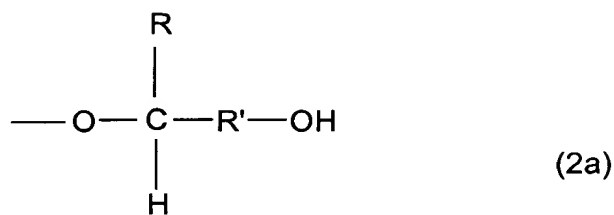


wherein Z is a divalent to hexavalent, non-aromatic, monocyclic or polycyclic hydrocarbon or bridged cyclic hydrocarbon group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms; Z' is a divalent to hexavalent, normal or branched hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or non-aromatic, monocyclic or polycyclic hydrocarbon or bridged cyclic hydrocarbon group having 3 to 20 carbon atoms; Z or Z' may have a nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atom interposed in a carbon-to-carbon bond, the hydrogen atom on a carbon atom may be replaced by a halogen, alkoxy, nitro, cyano or acetyl group, and a methylene group in the carbon skeleton may be replaced by a carbonyl group;

x, y and z are independently integers of 1 to 5
corresponding to the valence of Z and Z';

R¹ is a group represented by formula (2a) or (2b); R² is a normal, branched or cyclic, substituted or unsubstituted, alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms or alkenyl group having 3 to

8 carbon atoms or a monovalent, non-aromatic, polycyclic hydrocarbon or bridged cyclic hydrocarbon group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms;



wherein R is hydrogen, hydroxyl group or a normal, branched or cyclic alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, R' is a normal, branched or cyclic alkenylene group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkyl R or an alkenylene R' group may have an oxygen atom interposed in a carbon-to-carbon bond, some of the hydrogen atoms attached to carbon atoms may be replaced by hydroxyl groups; or R and R', taken together, may form a ring, and each of R and R' is a normal or branched alkenylene group of 1 to 8 carbon atoms when they form a ring; and

p1 is a positive number and p2, p3 and p4 are 0 or positive numbers and satisfy:

$$p1 + p2 + p3 + p4 = 1,$$

$$0 < p1 / (p1 + p2 + p3 + p4) \leq 0.9,$$

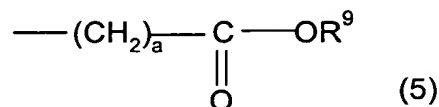
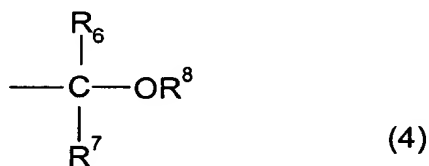
$$0 \leq p2 / (p1 + p2 + p3 + p4) \leq 0.8,$$

$$0 \leq p3 / (p1 + p2 + p3 + p4) \leq 0.7,$$

$$0 \leq p4 / (p1 + p2 + p3 + p4) \leq 0.9,$$

wherein some or all of the hydrogen atoms of carboxyl groups or carboxyl groups and hydroxyl groups in silicone compound of formula (1) are replaced by at least one acid labile group, said silicone compound having a weight average molecular weight of 1,000 to 50,000.

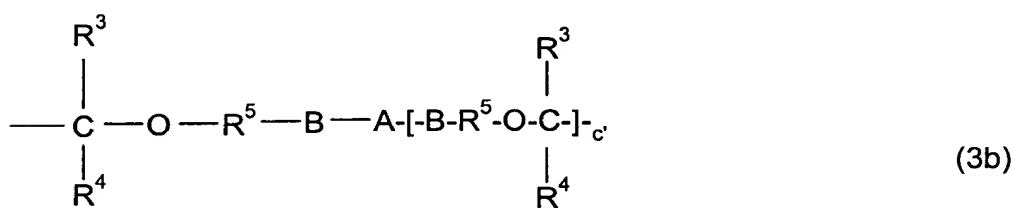
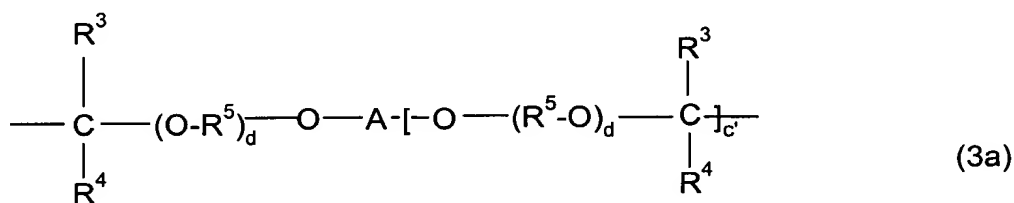
Claim 3 (previously amended): The high molecular weight silicone compound of claim 2 wherein the acid labile group is at least one group selected from the class consisting of formula (4), formula (5), tertiary alkyl groups of 4 to 20 carbon atoms, trialkylsilyl groups whose alkyl groups each have 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and oxoalkyl groups of 4 to 20 carbon atoms,



wherein R^6 and R^7 each are independently hydrogen or a normal, branched or cyclic alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms, R^8 is a monovalent hydrocarbon group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms which may have a hetero atom, or R^6 and R^7 , R^6 and R^8 , or R^7 and R^8 , taken together, may form a ring, and R^6 , R^7 and R^8 each are independently a normal or branched alkylene group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms when they form a ring, R^9 is a tertiary alkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms, a trialkylsilyl group whose alkyl groups each have 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an oxoalkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms or a group of formula (4), and letter a is an integer of 0 to 6.

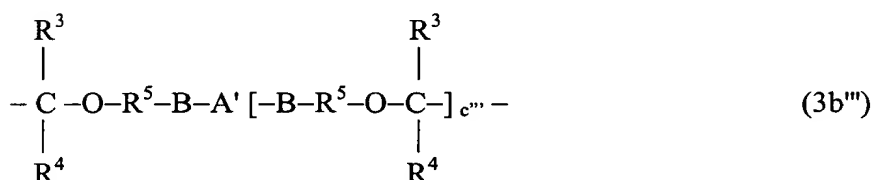
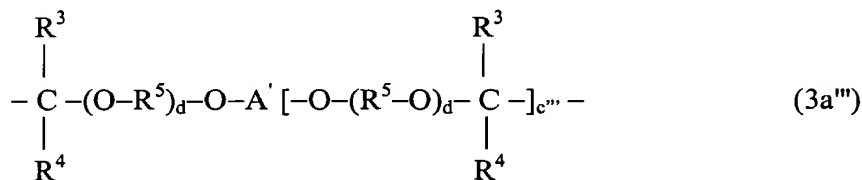
Claim 4 (previously amended): The high molecular weight silicone compound of claim 2 wherein some of the hydrogen atoms of carboxyl groups or carboxyl groups and hydroxyl groups

in said silicone compound are replaced by at least one acid labile group, and 0 mol% to 50 mol% of the hydrogen atoms of the carboxyl groups and/or hydroxyl groups are replaced by crosslinking groups having C-O-C linkages represented by formula (3a) or (3b) whereby the silicone compound is crosslinked within a molecule and/or between molecules,



wherein each of R^3 and R^4 is independently hydrogen or a normal, branched or cyclic alkyl group of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or R^3 and R^4 , taken together, may form a ring, and each of R^3 and R^4 is independently a normal or branched alkylene group of 1 to 8 carbon atoms when they form a ring, R^5 is a normal, branched or cyclic alkylene group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms, d is 0 or an integer of 1 to 10, A is a c -valent aliphatic or alicyclic saturated hydrocarbon group, aromatic hydrocarbon group or heterocyclic group of 1 to 50 carbon atoms, which may have an intervening hetero atom and in which the hydrogen atom attached to a carbon atom may be partially replaced by a hydroxyl group, carboxyl group, acyl group or fluorine atom, B is ---CO---O--- , ---NHCO---O--- or ---NHCONH--- , c is an integer of 2 to 8, and c' is an integer of 1 to 7.

Claim 5 (previously amended): The high molecular weight silicone compound of claim 4 wherein the crosslinking group having C-O-C linkages represented by formula (3a) or (3b) is represented by the formula (3a''') or (3b'''):



wherein each of R^3 and R^4 is independently hydrogen or a normal, branched or cyclic alkyl group of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or R^3 and R^4 , taken together, may form a ring, and each of R^3 and R^4 is independently a normal or branched alkylene group of 1 to 8 carbon atoms when they form a ring, R^5 is a normal, branched or cyclic alkylene group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms, d is 0 or an integer of 1 to 5, A' is a c'' -valent normal, branched or cyclic alkylene, alkyltriyl or alkyltetrayl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms or arylene group of 6 to 30 carbon atoms, which may have an intervening hetero atom and in which the hydrogen atom attached to a carbon atom may be partially replaced by a hydroxyl group, carboxyl group, acyl group or fluorine atom, B is $-\text{CO}-\text{O}-$, $-\text{NHCO}-\text{O}-$ or $-\text{NHCONH}-$, c'' is an integer of 2 to 4, and c''' is an integer of 1 to 3.

Claims 6-15 (previously cancelled)

Claim 16 (previously added): A resist composition comprising

(A) an organic solvent,

- (B) a base resin in the form of the high molecular weight silicone compound of claim 3, and
- (C) a photoacid generator.

Claim 17 (previously added): A resist composition comprising

- (A) an organic solvent,
- (B) a base resin in the form of the high molecular weight silicone compound of claim 5, and
- (C) a photoacid generator.

B1 Claim 18 (currently amended): The resist composition of claim 16 -4- further comprising (D) a dissolution inhibitor.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The resist composition of claim 16 -4- further comprising (E) a basic compound.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The resist composition of claim 16 -4- further comprising (F) a compound having a group represented by $\equiv\text{C}-\text{COOH}$ in a molecule.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The resist composition of claim 16 -4- further comprising (G) an acetylene alcohol derivative.

Claim 22 (new): The resist composition of claim 17 further comprising (D) a dissolution inhibitor.

B2 Claim 23 (new): The resist composition of claim 17 further comprising (E) a basic compound.

Claim 24 (new): The resist composition of claim 17 further comprising (F) a compound having a group represented by $\equiv\text{C}-\text{COOH}$ in a molecule.

Claim 25 (new): The resist composition of claim 17 further comprising (G) an acetylene alcohol derivative.

B2
